

The fairytale castle of Neuschwanstein



AIRPORT TRANSFERS INCLUDED



HEADSETS IN ROME & FLORENCE

# Winter Explorer

## Tour Pace

This tour slows down considerably after Venice, with 2 night stays in Venice, Rome, Lucerne & Paris. Florence is just a short drive from Rome, requiring only a one night stay here.

## Hotels

The hotels featured on this tour range in style from the traditional Sant'Elena, which overlooks the Venetian lagoon, to the modern Hilton hotel in the heart of the city of Innsbruck.

## Fellow Passengers

This tour attracts visitors who want a more comprehensive tour of Europe that includes the three main historical cities of Italy. Passengers on this tour often have a passion for art and culture.

## Highlights

Lakeside Lucerne on a crisp, clear, winter's day can't be beaten - except for the stunning views from nearby Mt Pilatus! The history of Rome, the art treasures of Florence and the atmosphere of Venice are all pure magic.

### DAY 1 – LONDON – AMSTERDAM

Meet your Tour Director at London's *Thistle Marble Arch* and travel to *Dover* for your channel crossing to France. Continue through Belgium and into Holland. See the first *windmills* on your way to *Amsterdam*, where your *orientation tour* shows you the *Royal Palace*, *Mint Tower* and includes a visit to a *diamond factory showroom*. Tonight, enjoy a *Welcome Drink* with your Tour Director. *Hotel: Movenpick City Centre.*

### DAY 2 – AMSTERDAM – HEIDELBERG

Travel into Germany today to *view Gothic Cologne Cathedral*. Then continue *via Bonn*, to the scenic Rhine Gorge. Board your *highlight Rhine cruise* past medieval castles, steep vineyards and the legendary *Loreley Rock*. Now on to your hotel in the 'Student Prince' town of *Heidelberg*, dominated by its red sandstone castle. *Hotel: Crowne Plaza.* (BB,D)

### DAY 3 – HEIDELBERG – INNSBRUCK

Head into Bavaria today to admire the fairytale castle of *Neuschwanstein*. Continue to *Oberammergau* to see the renowned theatre and painted chalets before crossing the Austrian border to lively *Innsbruck*. *Hotel: Hilton.* (BB,D)

### DAY 4 – INNSBRUCK – VENICE

This morning your Tour Director shows you the *Golden Roof* before a visit to the superb rococo *Wilten Basilica* - its interior richly decorated with cherubs and angels. Leaving Innsbruck, cross into Italy and follow the Adige River through spectacular scenery to *Verona*. Walk with your Tour Director through the narrow streets past the *Roman Arena* to *Juliet's Balcony*. Now on to the romantic city of *Venice*. *Hotel: Sant'Elena/Continental.* (BB,D)

### DAY 5 – VENICE SIGHTSEEING

Cruise by *private launch* to *St Mark's Square*. Walk past the *Bridge of Sighs* and adjoining *Doges' Palace* to view the ornate *Basilica* and *the Moors atop the clock tower*. After a *demonstration of Venetian glass blowing*, you are at leisure to explore or shop! (BB)

Visit the Colosseum, Rome



### DAY 6 – VENICE – ROME

Head south over the wild Apennine Mountains to your Rome hotel. *This evening, drive to a local restaurant for a highlight dinner of pasta, wine and music!* *Hotel: Ateneo Garden Palace/Crowne Plaza.* (BB,HD)

### DAY 7 – ROME SIGHTSEEING

Sightseeing with your *local guide* takes you into *St Peter's Basilica* in the Vatican City to see Michelangelo's 'Pieta'. Then cross the Tiber to *visit the mighty Colosseum* where gladiators fought and *overlook the Forum*. There is time at leisure this afternoon. (BB)

### DAY 8 – ROME – FLORENCE

Follow the Tiber north to *Florence* this morning. *Join your local guide to visit the statue of 'David' inside the Academy Gallery*. Then continue to the *Cathedral*, *Gates of Paradise* and the open air art gallery in *Signoria Square*. Later enjoy a *leatherwork demonstration* in the Santa Croce area, before time at leisure! *Hotel: Croce di Malta/Mediterraneo.* (BB,D)

### DAY 9 – FLORENCE – LUCERNE

Journey north today past Italy's industrial nerve centre of *Milan* and the *Italian Lake District*. Cross into Switzerland amidst spectacular *Alpine scenery*, to reach the lakeside resort of *Lucerne*. *Hotel: Astoria.* (BB)

### DAY 10 – LUCERNE SIGHTSEEING

A full day in this beautiful city with its *covered wooden bridges*, painted gables, medieval fortifications, *Lion Monument*, *baroque church*, lake-side walks and excellent shops. *Included is a spectacular cable-car ride up to the summit of Mount Pilatus for snow-capped views and true Alpine majesty.* (BB,D)

### DAY 11 – LUCERNE – PARIS

Travel into France and continue through the wine area of *Burgundy* to *Paris*. Tonight, perhaps sample some French cuisine? *Hotel: Marriott Rive Gauche.* (BB)

### DAY 12 – PARIS SIGHTSEEING

Your *guided sightseeing tour* shows you *Notre Dame Cathedral* and the immense facades of the *Louvre*. Drive through the *Place de la Concorde* and along the elegant *Champs Élysées* to the *Arc de Triomphe*. *Now ascend the famous Eiffel Tower for spectacular panoramas over the city!* Enjoy free time to shop this afternoon. (BB)

### DAY 13 – PARIS – LONDON

This morning cross the battlefields of WW1 en route to Calais. Sail back across the channel to Dover and continue back to London where your tour ends. (BB)

# 13 Days ~ England ~ Belgium ~ Holland ~ Germany Austria ~ Italy ~ Switzerland ~ France



## Enjoy our Premium Highlights plus these extra tour features

### Excursions & Sights

- See Amsterdam's Royal Palace, Mint Tower and visit a diamond factory
- See Cologne Cathedral • Enjoy a scenic Rhine Cruise • See Neuschwanstein
- Visit the village of Oberammergau • Visit Innsbruck's Wilten Basilica
- See Juliet's Balcony & the Roman arena in Verona
- Cruise to St Mark's Square to see the Basilica, Doges' Palace & Bridge of Sighs
- See the Forum and visit St Peter's Basilica & the Colosseum in Rome
- See Florence's Signoria Square, immense Cathedral & Gates of Paradise
- See Lucerne's Lion Monument and covered bridges
- See Notre Dame Cathedral & the Arc de Triomphe in Paris

### Guided City Tours

- In depth sightseeing tours in Rome, Florence & Paris
- Orientation tours in Amsterdam, Cologne, Innsbruck, Venice and Lucerne

### Insight's First Class Services

- Escorted by a professional Tour Director
- Luxury 40 seat touring coach with extra legroom & onboard toilet
- First Class hotels with all service charges, taxes and portage
- Travel bag, document wallet, map book journal and information pack
- Free Airport transfers when booking our London hotel

### Quality Dining

- Highlight Dinner of Italian cuisine in Rome (HD)
- 12 enhanced or buffet breakfasts (BB), 5 three course table d'hôte dinners, or buffets, plus tea or coffee (D)

## 13 days from A\$235 per day

Starts	Ends	Price	*	Dec 22 - Jan 03	\$3050	Feb 24 - Mar 07	\$3075
Nov 04 - Nov 16		\$3075		Dec 30 - Jan 11	\$3050	Mar 02 - Mar 14	\$3075
Nov 11 - Nov 23		\$3075		<b>2008</b>		Mar 09 - Mar 21	\$3075
Nov 18 - Nov 30		\$3075		Jan 13 - Jan 25	\$3075	Mar 16 - Mar 28	\$3199
* Dec 02 - Dec 14		\$3075		Jan 27 - Feb 08	\$3075	Mar 23 - Apr 04	\$3075
* Dec 16 - Dec 28		\$3050		Feb 10 - Feb 22	\$3075	Mar 30 - Apr 11	\$3175
						Apr 06 - Apr 18	\$3399

### Supplements

Single Room Mar 16. Apr 06.	\$820
All other departures	\$740

### Reductions (See page 35)

Share a Triple Room	SAVE \$20 p.p.
Young Travellers 5-17 yrs	SAVE up to \$340
Early Payment	SAVE up to \$170 p.p.
Frequent Traveller	SAVE 5% p.p.
Extra Tour Discount	SAVE up to \$170 p.p.

### Notes

REF: W100. Prices are per person sharing a twin room. \*Tour departs Saturday & returns Thursday. All other tours depart on Sunday & return on Friday.

### Extra Nights

Accommodation in London: p.person, p.night				
Thistle	Marble Arch	Twin	Single	Triple
01 Nov 07-15	Apr 08	\$158	\$271	\$147

**Christmas Market Departures** \*These departures have the opportunity to explore the colourful Christmas markets in Heidelberg, Innsbruck & Lucerne.

**Included Premium Highlights are worth approx. A\$164**